

Atty. Dkt. No. K00-001
(formerly 0001.US00)

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 80 and 102-111 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-114 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 102-111 were objected to for having misnumbered dependencies. Applicant has amended claims 102-111 to properly depend from claim 101.

Further, claim 80 was objected to for a minor informality. Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct the informality.

Accordingly, the objections to the claims should now be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-13, 15, 18-25, 27-34, 37-88, 90-107 and 109-114 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the article by David King (hereinafter "King") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publications 2002/0002586 A1 to Rafal et al. (hereinafter "Rafal").

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Claims 14 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over King in view of Rafal and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publications 2002/0087344 A1 to Billings et al. Claims 16, 17, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over King in view of Rafal and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publications 2001/0049616 A1 to Khuzadi et al. (hereinafter "Khuzadi"). Claims 89 and 108 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over King in view of Rafal and further in view of Khuzadi. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

The present invention relates to systems and methods for on-line, interactive fundraising. One method, for example, includes hosting an organization's website, displaying one or more virtual plaque web pages honoring donors, providing one or more donation and payment option web pages (selectable by a donor), and modifying or updating the virtual plaque(s) when a donation is made. A method of another embodiment includes, for example, providing a website for a cause, an event, or an organization engaged in fundraising, enabling contributions to be made in support of a cause, event or organization by a donor via the website, and displaying one or more virtual plaques on the website that identify one or more donors, wherein the donor is able to specify the content of the virtual plaque.

The Office Action cites King as disclosing a virtual plaque. Applicant notes that the publication date on the King article is noted as "Fall 2000", while the Examiner has handwritten the date, "August 10, 2000." It is unclear how the Examiner obtained this date. Further, Applicant has submitted herewith an affidavit from inventors Dr. Harry Gruber and Dr. Allen Gruber, along with documentation exhibiting conception of the invention prior to the August 10, 2000, date of the King reference. Accordingly, King should be withdrawn as a prior art reference.

Rafal fails to teach or suggest any virtual plaque. Rafal relates to a method for creating and hosting online parties. Rafal does not relate to, and therefore does not address problems associated with, fundraising activity. Nowhere does Rafal teach or suggest anything similar to

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virtual plaques. The Office Action cites Rafal for the teaching of updating certain information in a database. For example, paragraph [0012] of Rafal discloses that the "data warehouse ... constantly updates the profiles of hosts, guests of honor, and gift-givers." The updating of information in a database cannot be equated to updating a virtual plaque displayed on a website to honor a donor. Accordingly, Rafal fails to teach or suggest each feature of the claimed invention.

Thus, independent claims 1, 20, 39, 42, 43, 47, 51, 73, 95, 101 and 112-114 are patentable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 2-19, 44-46, 55, 61 and 62 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable for at least that reason, as well as for additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole. Similarly, claims 21-38, 56, 63 and 64 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 20; claims 40, 41, 57, 65 and 66 depend from allowable claim 39; claims 58, 67 and 68 depend from allowable claim 43; claims 48-50, 59, 69 and 70 depend from allowable claim 47; claims 52-54, 60, 71 and 72 depend from allowable claim 51; claims 74-94 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 73; claims 96-100 depend from allowable claim 95; and claims 102-111 depend from allowable claim 101. Therefore, dependent claims 2-19, 21-38, 40-41, 44-46, 48-50, 52-72, 74-94, 96-100 and 102-111 are patentable for at least that reason.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1674. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check

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being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-1674. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1674.

Respectfully submitted,

Date January 13, 2006

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